

CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

Ins BI *Ins a1* 1. An apparatus for providing subscription services,
comprising:

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a processor for processing a request to receive at least one of an issue, a good, and a service, pursuant to a subscription, wherein said request includes information concerning an existing subscription, wherein said processor processes said request and determines at least one of the status of the subscription, a number of at least one of issues, goods, and services, yet to be fulfilled pursuant to said subscription, and further wherein said processor generates a response which contains one of an authorization to provide said at least one of an issue, a good, and a service, and a denial to provide said at least one of an issue, a good, and a service; and

a transmitter for transmitting said response to a point-of-transaction device.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a receiver for receiving said request for said at least one of an issue, a good, and a service, pursuant to a subscription from an individual subscriber.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said request is received from at least one of a point-of-transaction device and a communication device.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

an input device for inputting information regarding said request for said at least one of an issue, a good, and a service, pursuant to a subscription.

5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said receiver receives a second signal from a subscription processing device, wherein said second signal includes one of an authorization to provide said at least one of an issue, a good, and a service, pursuant to said subscription, and a denial to provide said at least one of an issue, a good, and a service, pursuant to said subscription.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor determines at least one of whether a subscription is active and whether a subscription has expired.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one of an output device and a display device for at least one of outputting and displaying information regarding at least one of said subscription, said request, and said response.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor updates subscription fulfillment information for said subscription in response to the issuance of the authorization to provide said at least one of an issue, a good, and a service.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is utilized at least one of on, over, and in conjunction with, a communication network, a wireless communication network, the Internet, and the World Wide Web.

10. An apparatus for providing subscription

information, comprising:

a memory device for storing subscription information;

a processor for processing a request for a subscription, wherein said processor processes said request for a subscription in conjunction with said subscription information, wherein said request contains a request to receive a pre-defined number of at least one of issues, goods, and services, over a pre-specified time period, wherein said pre-specified time period exceeds the normal time period for receiving all of said pre-defined number of said at least one of issues, goods, and services, and further wherein said processor generates a subscription record containing at least one of subscription information and a subscription price; and

at least one of an output device for outputting information contained in said subscription record, a display device for displaying information contained in said subscription record, and a transmitter for transmitting information contained in said subscription record to a communication device associated with an individual.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said request contains information regarding a request for at least one of a payment of a total subscription price and a payment per at least one of an issue, a good, and a service.

12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said subscription record contains at least one of a cost of a subscription, a term of a subscription, a number of said at least one of issues, goods, and services, included in a subscription, and a notification of at least one of an availability and an existence of a subscription.

13. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:

a receiver for receiving said request from a communication device associated with an individual.

14. A method for providing subscription services, comprising:

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processing a request to receive at least one of an issue, a good, and a service, pursuant to a subscription, wherein said request includes information concerning an existing subscription;

determining at least one of the status of said subscription, and a number of at least one of issues, goods, and services, yet to be fulfilled pursuant to said subscription;

generating a response which contains at least one of an authorization to provide said at least one of an issue, a good, and a service, and a denial to provide said at least one of an issue, a good, and a service; and

transmitting said response to a point-of-transaction device.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

receiving said request from an individual subscriber for said at least one of an issue, a good, and a service, pursuant to said subscription.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

inputting information regarding said request for said at least one of an issue, a good, and a service, pursuant to said subscription.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

receiving a second signal from a subscription processing device, wherein said second signal includes one of an authorization to provide said at least one of an issue, a good, and a service, pursuant to said subscription, and a denial to provide said at least one of an issue, a good, and a service, pursuant to said subscription.

18. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

at least one of outputting and displaying information regarding at least one of said subscription, said request, and said response.

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19. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

receiving a request for information regarding
a subscription;

processing a request for a subscription in
conjunction with subscription information, wherein said
request contains a request to receive a pre-defined number
of at least one of issues, goods, and services, over a pre-
specified time period, wherein said pre-specified time
period exceeds the normal time period for receiving all of
said pre-defined number of said at least one of issues,
goods, and services;

generating a subscription record containing at
least one of subscription information and a subscription
price; and

at least one of outputting information contained
in said subscription record, displaying information
contained in said subscription record, and transmitting
information contained in said subscription record to a
communication device associated with an individual.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said request contains information regarding a request for one of a payment of a total subscription price and a payment per at least one of an issue, a good, and a service, and further wherein said subscription record contains at least one of a cost of said subscription, a term of said subscription, a number of said at least one issues, goods, and services, included in said subscription, and a notification of at least one of an availability and an existence of said subscription.

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